

SCIENCE AND INVENTION.

Work of the World's Busy Brains in Discovering, Inventing and Creating.

THE GREEN BUG PEST.

The green bugs have been ravaging the Kansas wheat as well as that of Texas, but Kansas is fortunate in having an entomologist in the State University who has heretofore attained much success in combating the insect pests. This he does by means of parasites, and it will be remembered that he got rid of the grasshopper and chinch bug in this way. When the green bug began to be a serious evil Prof. S. J. Hunter was ready with his remedy, and began sending out a bee which kills the green bug. The bee is more prolific than the green bug, since it lays 500 eggs while the green bug lays only 50. A force of students are out in the fields gathering the bees and sending them to the university to be furnished to the farmers who call for them. While the Texas farmers tried to get the Legislature to make an appropriation to keep the green bug parasite in stock, but were unsuccessful. The history of the pest in Texas is an illustration of the habits of life of all pests. We suffer much from these in this country, because where the pests were imported we did not also import their enemies, and we have killed off the birds who were the active destroyers of the insects. In Texas the green bug increases rapidly and devastates fields. Then the parasite having such an abundance of them to feed upon increases more rapidly and kills them off. Being deprived of the food, the parasites die, and this allows the green bug to multiply again until the same round is made. The only remedy is to keep a supply of parasites on hand ready to let loose whenever the green bug begins its ravages.

MODELS FOR PERPETUAL MOTION.

Under the present rule in the Patent Office no models are required or permitted, except for perpetual motion devices. Everything else can be sufficiently explained by drawings, which can be readily read and understood by the office experts. But every inventor who claims a patent for a perpetual motion device is required to present a full working model. It is needless to say that the Patent Office is not incumbered with these. In fact, there is none. No matter how valuable a believer in perpetual motion may be with tongue and pen, he simply shrivels up before the requirement to produce a working model of his invention.

What a relief it would be if there could be some such practical test of the wild-eyed theorists on socialism, politics and finance.

That beautiful flower of the garden, the larkspur, is a poisonous weed out West, and a scourge to the cattlemen of Colorado, who lose it, it is estimated, as much as \$50,000 a year on account of it in their pastures. It causes a fatal bloating. The larkspur belongs to the ranunculaceae, and are nearly related to the aconites. The seeds of most of the larkspurs are energetically cathartic, and so violent that they are rarely prescribed by physicians. They are useful in destroying vermin, and the extract is sometimes used in neuralgia, paralysis, and rheumatism. The botanical name of the species is Delphinium.

The latest and best thing in London is a lot of handsome new motor cabs, which are furnished with a "taximeter" to measure the distance, and charge only eight pence—16 cents—a mile. The Londoners call them "taxicabs," and they are fast driving out the old horse cabs.

Paris at 40,000 horses a day last year. And yet it has never been supposed that Frenchmen loved the horse as much as English and Americans do.

Scientists say fish never die a natural death. Those which escape being eaten by others, must die of mortification at the lies the fishermen tell about them.

Work of the Patent Office.

For the week ended May 11, 1907, the Patent Office issued 738 patents, 23 designs, 129 trade-marks, 15 labels, two prints and four reissues; making a total of 909, of which 659 patents and designs and 131 trade-marks went to citizens of the United States and 79 patents and designs and 15 trade-marks went to citizens of foreign countries.

Umbrella Support.

South Carolina has never been very well represented in the Patent Office. The people's attention down there has been more directed toward the eternal negro question and politics. Jacob W. Butler, Blaney, S. C., has secured a patent for a device which will, rainily attract general attention when it first appears upon any street. It is intended to leave a man's hands free, a quite important thing always during a rain storm, by furnishing a steady support to the umbrella. The affair looks quite complicated and unwieldy, and we fear that Mr. Butler will have some trouble in bringing it into general use. Possibly if he had an adaptation for women it might become fashionable, and we fear there is anything that arouses many sympathy it is a woman trying to manage her skirts and packages and an umbrella in a rain storm.



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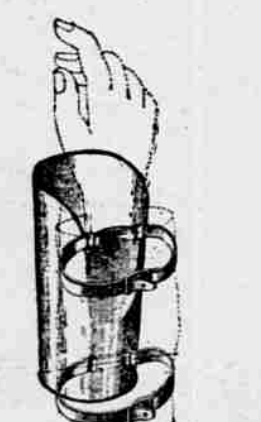
Automobile Cap.

The days of dragons and other terrifying monsters are recalled by a patent which Charles K. Liebeskind, New York, N. Y., has obtained for an automobile cap. A man with one of these caps on is rushing a demerol automobile, riding down and crushing animals and even killing children, would be a terror that would recall the dragon stories of one's infancy.



Fruit Gatherer.

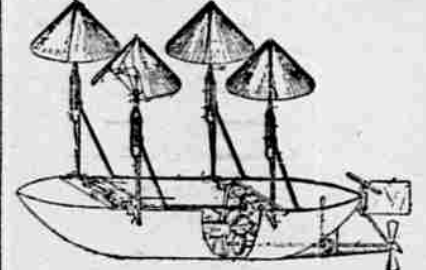
Asa A. Smith, Malaga, N. J., has patented a fruit gatherer which is fastened



directly around the wrist, and as the fruit is picked by the fingers it falls into a receptacle.

Flying Machine.

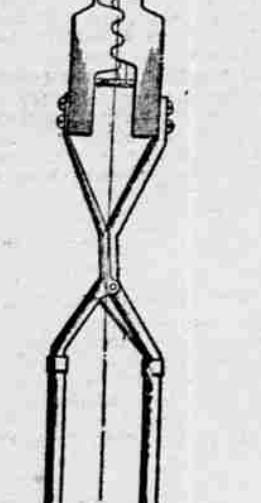
Bartholomew Connolly, Tonopah, Nev., enters the aerial field with an entirely novel form of a machine. This is boat-shaped, and there rises from it



vertical standards which have a top conical, flexible, ribbed and expandable device. These are all worked from the central cone to raise, lower and direct the machine.

Hair-Straightening Device.

It has heretofore been supposed that people who had curly hair were rather proud of it, and cultivated the frizziness



of their locks. It seems that there are people, however, who want their hair straightened, and George W. Fields, Chicago, Ill., came to the relief of them with a hair-straightening device that is intended to take the curls out, but which looks as if its application would require no end of patience and pains.

Fruit Sack.

The rapid development of the fruit business in this country is shown by the numerous devices which are being patented to facilitate the gathering of fruit. Charles W. Brewster, Sierra



Madre, Cal., has received a patent for a fruit sack or tray which seems to be nothing more than a sack supported at the sides by two bars extending over the shoulders, with the neck between them.

TESTED WITH DROPS OF WATER.

Number That a Skeptical Student in Paris Could Stand.

A drop of water, even three or four drops, falling on the head seems a thing unworthy of attention. Nevertheless, in China a slow and continuous dripping of water on the head has been found to be a method of torture under which the most hardened criminal abjectly howls for mercy.

When a professor in the Sorbonne stated this to his class the other day one of the students laughed incredulously, and said it would take a good deal of that sort of thing to affect him.

The professor assured him that even one quart of water dropped slowly onto his hand would be beyond his endurance. He agreed to test the professor's word. A quart measure filled with water was brought in, a microscopic hole was bored in the bottom and the performance began, the professor counting.

During the first 100 drops the student made airy remarks. With the second 100 he began to look less cheerful, then gradually all his talk died away, and his face took on a haggard, tortured expression. With the third 100 the hand began to swell and look red. The pain increased to torture. Finally the skin broke. At the 420th drop the skeptic acknowledged his doubts vanished and begged for mercy. He could bear no more.

HARRIMAN, THE ARCH-OFFENDER.

Stay of Proceedings on Account of Fear of Injury to Business—A Fearful Indictment of Harriman—How It Became Public—The Standard Oil Company's "Predatory" Tactics—Recommendations for Litigation and Legislation.

A tremendous fuss has started once more about E. H. Harriman, the colossus of the railroads, and the administration playing into his hands by delay? Some people think so.

Some one at the Interstate Commerce Commission a few days ago handed a newspaper correspondent a printed pamphlet. There were only 10 copies of it in existence, and those were supposed to be in the hands of the seven Commissioners and confidential employes or two. Statements vary as to just what the pamphlet was, also there is no dispute about its contents. In certain quarters it is contended that the pamphlet was the report of the Commission intended to adopt on its investigation of the Harriman lines—the Union Pacific, the Southern Pacific, the Alton, etc. Certainly the Commission had not adopted this report formally. Others say the pamphlet was only a statement prepared by Frank B. Kellogg and Charles A. Severance, special attorneys, and was even no more than a summary of the features of the investigation. At first the report drawn by these attorneys was so good as containing nothing new, as stated by one of the commissioners.

For state matter it raised a lot of trouble. The Commissioners began to search for the "leak." They held one session of an hour, at the end of which they solemnly announced that the pamphlet was not their report, but simply the recommendations of the attorneys which the Commission had not passed upon. The following day a meeting in concave again, and for an hour and a half questioned the newspaper men who had had "the scoop." The Commissioners gave out no statement, but it is said that this pamphlet was to be given to the public soon after President Roosevelt's Indianapolis speech. He may have said something about railroads and railroad legislation in that speech, but it has been claimed that he wanted the report on Harriman to follow what he said, and hence the leak. The leak is a serious matter. It is decided by influential with the Interstate Commerce Commission, most of whom demand attendance upon the White House, instead of being an independent body, as Congress intended it should be. It is known that the President wants Harriman's scalp, is willing to embarrass the magnate personally just as much as he can, and that he is in the crusade by fear lest he proceed too vigorously against the big Harriman properties and stimulate business unrest.

There is good reason for believing that one of the Commissioners gave out the pamphlet, and that he was inspired to do it because of his silent dissent from the President's policy in such matters. This Commissioner is credited with the opinion that the body of which he is a member should go about its business in its own way, reach its conclusions and promote them in a dignified manner, just as a court would do. For the Interstate Commerce Commission now regards itself as a court, and hands down its decisions in much the same fashion that a court does.

A Drastic Document.

The report against Harriman, as drawn by Attorneys Severance and Kellogg, is a drastic document. It puts the great magnate in anything but a desirable light, shows that he and those leagued with him control the railroads in about one-third of the area of the United States, chiefly in the West, where, according to the report, it is impossible to build or operate an independent line of road. Language could hardly be more condemnatory notwithstanding reports in some newspapers that Interstate Commerce Commission Commissioner Herbert Knox Smith says, "The few tariffs the Standard lines have filed, he adds, are between points where no owners of petroleum want to ship it. Rates have not been fixed for routes between the fields and cities where refineries exist, or if filed have been with impossible restrictions, such as that there should be 75,000 barrels in a single shipment to secure the rate, or even 200,000 barrels. Mr. Smith's report also details the "predatory tactics" followed by the Standard in preventing the independent companies from competing with it. It has frustrated efforts to secure rights of way, has purchased stock in these rival companies at exorbitant prices for the purpose of gaining control, has employed railroads as its tools in these campaigns, the railroads raising and lowering freight rates for the purpose of embarrassing the new enterprises and the patrons of independent pipe lines.

While asserting that the control of pipe lines is one of the big factors in the Standard's monopoly, now that railroads discriminations have been checked by prosecutions under the Elkins anti-rebate law—is probably the most important factor according to Mr. Smith's report—nevertheless shows that the Standard has not been materially affected by the independent pipe lines thus far constructed. There is, in fact, only one of any magnitude—the Pure Oil Company—which has a line stretching from the Appalachian field to the seaboard. Two other independent lines are being built from Indian Territory to the Gulf of Mexico, and it is promised to be of great use in breaking the Standard's monopoly in that part of the country.

Cost of Transporting Oil.

The Bureau has collected some authentic figures about the cost of transporting oil by pipe line, and shows that it is very small, only a third or a fourth as much as the Standard charges, where producers of oil are even able to get their petroleum carried.

The report is likely to become very valuable. Above all things, it demonstrates the necessity for the Government to move now in the reform of the rate law. It all demonstrates also the certainty that the Government's trust-busting work has scarcely begun, and that a big crop of anti-trust suits should be inaugurated in the near future if the good work begun by President Roosevelt is to be of lasting value to the people. The abolition of rebates, which has been the chief achievement of the great act which will not be of vast importance provided enormous combinations of railroads and of pipe lines are permitted to remain unbroken, as Harriman has gobbled up all the transcontinental lines. He has most of them already.

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For Department Commander.

A number of comrades of the Department of Iowa have presented Col. David J. Palmer, Past Commander of I. G. White Post, of Iowa, for Department Commander. He was born in Pennsylvania, and served in the 25th Iowa, becoming its captain, and was promoted to Colonel of the regiment.

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with civil suits to undo the man Harriman, who has promoted such injurious schemes against the public. For all the transportation lines of one-third of the country into the most gigantic railroad monopoly ever known. The Attorney-General will not move till the President says the word. But it is certain that the President will not say the word for many months. He has been besought by business interests to be careful to do nothing that will further disturb values, and while he will talk a little during the Summer about corporations, he is likely to heed these requests. If Harriman will not answer certain questions put to him by the Commission the President proposes to put him in jail for contempt, provided he can do it. The Federal Court in New York has refused to grant a writ of habeas corpus to Harriman. But it is a far different thing to proceed against Harriman personally in such a case than it is to proceed against the many thousands of stockholders. For the latter are thousands of innocent stockholders, and any legal proceedings that affects the hundreds of millions of money invested in the properties will affect general business conditions.

Fear of Injuring Business.

The President, as has been said heretofore, is still much afraid lest there be a waning of property before he goes out of the White House. He is more afraid of that than of any other occurrence. Some business men of good judgment say there is warrant for uneasiness. They may be mistaken in their private predictions, but they are hardly six months from now than they have been since the panic of 1893, and that the hard times will cover a period of a year or two before there is any quickening again. The reports from the West of poor crops is likely to aggravate any conditions under the surface that are making for less prosperity. A sensation of gloom times or none of the calamity prophets says there is going to be a panic—would be laid at the door of the party in power, and especially at the door of Theodore Roosevelt.

It may be well, however, to accept all such prophecies with caution, for men of the largest business transactions are sometimes mistaken. There have been prophecies in high quarters heretofore of a recession of prosperity which have not come true.

Prosperity or no prosperity, it is difficult to see how the President can long escape from a prosecution of Harriman and his roads. If he was warranted in prosecuting the Northern Pacific and dislodging the combination, there are those two enormous properties, there is much more warrant for proceeding against the iniquitous combinations that Harriman has built up in the West. The Government won its suit in the Northern Securities litigation, although a divided court, with a margin none too wide for comfort. The scope of the Harriman combination is several times greater than the operations of J. J. Hill with the Northern Pacific and Great Northern.

The President's unwillingness to do anything with the Harriman case for the next six months is obvious. The Interstate Commerce Commission has been investigating Harriman for six months, but no steps to prosecute him for combinations in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law have yet been taken. The Federal courts all adjourn in June, and will not be in session again till October. If suits are to be instituted, they will not be reached for a year or in time to be under way when the next Presidential campaign is under way, so that the Republicans can point with pride to what they are doing for the regular stage, and insist that there shall be no change of Administration lest it be interpreted as a repulse for the party in power, an entering in of cold works.

The Standard Oil Company.

Meanwhile, as the Interstate Commerce Commission dabbles along with the greatest work it has undertaken, so as to comply with the business men's demand, there appears a second installment of the report of the Bureau of Corporations on the Standard Oil Company, whose chief evils are well understood to be in league with Harriman. The big feature of this report is that the railroad-rate law, as far as concerns its provision making pipe lines between States common carriers, is a dead letter. Neither the President nor the Commission is doing anything to make the Standard comply with the rate law. The owners of Standard lines, comprising about 40,000 miles of pipe, have filed some tariffs for the transportation of oil, but the tariffs are filed in such a way as to be a mockery of the law. They are not practical working tariffs. Commissioner of Corporations Herbert Knox Smith says, "The few tariffs the Standard lines have filed, he adds, are between points where no owners of petroleum want to ship it. Rates have not been fixed for routes between the fields and cities where refineries exist, or if filed have been with impossible restrictions, such as that there should be 75,000 barrels in a single shipment to secure the rate, or even 200,000 barrels. Mr. Smith's report also details the "predatory tactics" followed by the Standard in preventing the independent companies from competing with it. It has frustrated efforts to secure rights of way, has purchased stock in these rival companies at exorbitant prices for the purpose of gaining control, has employed railroads as its tools in these campaigns, the railroads raising and lowering freight rates for the purpose of embarrassing the new enterprises and the patrons of independent pipe lines.

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Pimples and Blotches.

Are not the only signs that a blood-cleansing, tonic medicine is needed. Tired, languid feelings, loss of appetite and general debility are other signs, and they may be worse signs.

The best blood-cleansing, tonic medicine is Hood's Sarsaparilla, which acts directly and peculiarly on the blood, ridding it of all foreign matters and building up the whole system. This statement is verified by the experience of thousands radically cured.

Over forty thousand testimonials received in two years, by actual count. Accept no substitute for

Hood's Sarsaparilla.

In usual liquid form or chocolate tablets called Sarsatabs. 100 Doses \$1. Guaranteed under Food and Drugs Act. June 24, 1906, No. 23.

The Sixteenth Corps.

Editor National Tribune: Will you kindly do me the favor of answering the following questions?

1. Did the Sixteenth Corps belong to the Army of the Tennessee or the Atlanta campaign?
2. When the First Division of the Fifteenth Corps left Iuka, Miss., for Chattanooga, Tenn., we had a fight at Cherokee Station, and there was another division about a mile back of us. Can you tell me what division it was and who commanded it?—J. H. Buser, 25th Iowa, Burlington, Iowa.

1. The Sixteenth Corps belonged, as a unit, to the Army of the Tennessee. The left wing of the Sixteenth Corps, under its corps commander, Gen. G. M. Dodge, was an active participant in the Atlanta campaign, during which Gen. Dodge was wounded. The right wing of the corps was under Gen. A. J. Smith, part of it up the Red River, the rest of it helping hold down Mississippi and Tennessee and guard communications. Can any of the comrades answer this question?—Editor National Tribune.

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